

23 June 2023

Tēnā koutou

## Laboratory Update: HPV Primary Screening from 26 July 2023 – Edition 2

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- **NCSP Laboratory Policy for Processing Leaking Samples**
- **Invalid HPV tests**
- **Collection, Storage and Transportation of Samples for HPV Testing**
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### NCSP Laboratory Policy for Processing Leaking Samples

- The laboratory will not process a LBC (ThinPrep) or a HPV Cell Collection Medium vial for primary HPV testing if the sample has leaked on receipt in the laboratory.
- The test will be reported as 'Unsuitable for analysis' because of the LBC vial or HPV Cell Collection Medium vial leakage.
- If the HPV test is not performed due to LBC (ThinPrep) leakage and there is a sufficient volume of sample remaining in the vial, cytology will be reported. This may facilitate the repeat HPV test to be a swab sample as repeat cytology will not be required.
- Unsuitable for analysis HPV tests may be repeated without any time delay and should be repeated as soon as practicable.

### Invalid HPV tests

- HPV tests can be invalid because of the effects of inhibitory substances or because there is insufficient cellular material present (usually none). If this occurs, then the test will be reported as invalid with a recommendation for a repeat sample.
- If the HPV test is invalid on an LBC sample, cytology will be reported where possible. This may facilitate the repeat HPV test to be a swab sample, as repeat cytology will not be required.
- Invalid HPV tests may be repeated without any time delay. Invalid tests should be repeated as soon as practicable.

Please refer to: [NSU Clinical Practice Guidelines](#)




[TeWhatuOra.govt.nz](https://www.tewhatuora.govt.nz)

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**Collection, Storage and Transportation of Samples for HPV Testing.**

**1. Collection**

- HPV testing can be performed in any health facility that has the appropriately trained health providers and necessary supplies and equipment.
- There are 3 types of collection methods for HPV testing:

<p>1. LBC ThinPrep collection – speculum examination with cells removed using the cytobrush or cervibroom. This sample can be used for cytology, if required (use from 26 July 2023).</p>	
<p>2. Wet Swab collection – Red topped Copan FLOQ Swab – self-collected sample rinsed into a Cell Collection Medium vial (use from 26 July 2023).  Attach green <b>SWAB-HPV only</b> label.</p>	
<p>3. Dry Swab collection - Red topped Copan FLOQ Swab – self-collected sample. FLOQ Swab returned to the swab tube.  <b>Test not available until validation of test technology is complete</b>, date to be confirmed. See below*.</p>	

### Collection (continued)

- There should be only **one** sample per patient per screening episode.
- All samples should be adequately labelled with a minimum of **two** unique identifiers (e.g. patient name, plus date of birth and/or NHI).
- Secure the LBC and Cell Collection Medium vials to avoid leakage - re-cap the vial and tighten until the lines on the cap and the vial meet or slightly overlap.



Line on cap and line  
on vial should meet or  
slightly overlap.

- Samples should be placed in the biohazard bag on completion of sample taking to avoid the risk of cross-contamination.
- Place the completed laboratory request form in the outside pocket of the biohazard bag.
- **For self-collected samples**, women should dispose of instruction sheets on completion of self-collecting the sample to avoid the risk of cross-contamination. (Instruction sheets will be provided by the laboratory with the consumables.)

### 2. Storage

- LBC ThinPrep with sample: 4°C - 37°C
- FLOQ Swab Wet Self-collect: Cell Collection Medium 2°C - 30°C
- FLOQ Swab Dry Swab: 2°C - 30°C
- Do not use the collection vials or FLOQ Swabs after the indicated expiration date.

### 3. Transportation

- Transport to the laboratory does not require refrigeration.
- All samples must be transported in a biohazard bag with the request form.
- Transport samples to the laboratory via the Awanui (Labtests) couriers in your regular pick up or as soon as practicable.

### Consumables

- Supply order form
- Instructions sheets (pad form) for Wet Swab collection
- FLOQ Swabs
- Cell Collection Medium – Wet Swab self-collect
- SWAB-HPV only labels

All supplies/consumables will be sent to practices currently using **ThinPrep** starting early July, with all deliveries completed by 21 July.

We have been advised that practices who previously chose to use SurePath for cervical smears, will continue to send their NCSP screening samples to Awanui (Labtests), so you will need to contact them for consumables.

Some practices use a mix of SurePath and ThinPrep, so our communications are being sent to all Auckland practices to ensure no-one misses out on essential information regarding the changeover to HPV as the primary screening test.

If you are only using SurePath and do not wish to receive these newsletter updates, please advise and we will remove your practice email address from our mailing list for future communications regarding HPV.

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

The laboratory can not accept a sample for **HPV testing for Primary Screening prior to 26 July 2023**, as the HPV equipment platform and IT requirements to support the reporting of the test will not be available until 26 July 2023.

**\*Please note the laboratory will notify you when we can begin accepting Dry Swab samples.** Instruction sheet pads for Dry Swab collection will be sent to practices at this time.

Ngā mihi nui,

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